



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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RL:0731A

## HCR 7 RELATING TO A STATEWIDE DATA BANK

Statement for  
House Committee on  
Judiciary  
Public Hearing - February 18, 1988

HCR 7 requests the Legislative Reference Bureau to study the concept of a statewide data bank or centralized information system for the state.

The Environmental Center previously submitted to your committee the attached statement on HR 10. Our statement remains applicable to HCR 7.

Attachment



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## HR 10 RELATING TO A STATEWIDE DATA BANK

Statement for  
House Committee on  
Judiciary  
Public Hearing - February 9, 1988

By  
John Harrison, Environmental Center  
Jacquelin Miller, Environmental Center  
Keith Chave, Oceanography  
Kem Lowry, Urban and Regional Planning  
Kent Bridges, Botany

HR 10 requests the Legislative Reference Bureau to study the concept of a statewide data bank or centralized information system for the state. Our statement on this resolution does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

As recognized in the "whereas" clauses of HR 10, systematic organization of information and a method to facilitate access to that information is necessary if it is to be appropriately and adequately used. The ever increasing sophistication of computer-resident data bases can provide ready access to such information and can greatly enhance the usefulness of existing data as well as providing the desired organizational format and repository for future data.

While we concur with the advantages and utility of computer data bases, we suggest that the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) should be given more direction in the "resolve" as to the type of information that is desired by the Legislature and or the purpose for which the information will be used. For example, if the need is to improve land use planning then numerous types of information, including physical and environmental data, would be needed along with existing demographic information. If the "information" to be banked is confined to the operations or products of Chapter 92, as is referenced in the "whereas" clauses, other types of data may be needed. The LRB study should include recognition of several large data base systems that already exist within the state or are in the process of being developed and the potential use of that data in a statewide system. Furthermore, the LRB should study whether a single information system can

handle a broad variety of data. For instance, a cross-referenced bibliography of legal/legislative records probably requires different storage/access strategies than geographic/planning infrastructure records. It is possible for the systems to be partitioned into functional, compatible subsystems which can "talk" to each other. In this way modular development of the system can be pursued and the vulnerability of the state to total system failure will be reduced.

The purpose of the data base and its intended application should be more clearly defined in the resolution so that the LRB has the benefit of some guidance for their study.